(b) if so, the details of such proposals approved since July, 1991 and those still pending; and

(c) the reasons for delay in clearning the same?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES (SHRI GIRIDHAR GOMANGO): (a) to (c) The following proposals were received from the North Eastern States for financial assistance under the Plan schemes formulated by this Ministry.

1. Proposal received from Tripura Horticulture Corporation Limited on February 1991 for financial assistance for expansion and mobilisation of the existing fruit processing industry at Arundhutinagar.

2. Proposal received in February 1991 from Tripura Horticulture Corporation Limited for grant of financial assistance for community/village fruit processing during the Eighth Plan Period.

3. Proposal received in June 1991 from Government of Meghalaya for grant of financial assistance for establishments of a fruit processing unit in Meghalaya.

4. Proposal received in February, 1992 from Mizoram Food and Allied Industries Corporation Limited for grant of financial assistance for setting up of Food Processing Plant at SAIRANG and for establishment of fruit and vegetable processing facilities at CHHING CHHIP.

5. Proposal received in February 1991 from Government of Arunachal Pradesh for upgrading their existing canning centre into a food processing training centre at NAHARLAGUL.

Out of the above five proposals, the proposal of Mizoram Food and Allied Corporation Limited has been approved and financial assistance of Rs. 70.00 lakhs towards equity sanctioned on 20.3.1992. Action has been initiated on the remaining proposals.

Textiles export

*174. SHRI MISA R. GANESAN:

DR. NARREDDY THULASI REDDY:

Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) what is the target for textiles export for the year 1992-93; and

(b) what are the details of the steps being taken to improve textile exports?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRI ASHOK GEHLOT): (a) to (b) The target for textiles export for the year 1992-93 is US $6349 Million. Government have taken a number of steps to boost export of textiles which include.

(i) Under the new Export Policy for 1992—1997, all textile machinery items have been placed outside the negative list facilitating easy imports without any licensing requirements.

(ii) liberalised import of capital goods under Export Promotion (Capital Goods) Scheme under which exporters can import machinery items at 25 per cent import duty subject to Export obligation of three times the CIF value of goods imported in five years.

(iii) imports of second-hand textile machinery allowed subject to licensing. However machinery required for manufacture of garments, hosiery and made-ups could be imported without licensing requirements.

(iv) six additional items of trimmings/embellishments used by the Ready Made Garment industry have been extended the benefit of concessional duty of imports with effect from 30-4-92.

(v) limit for import of tags, labels, printed bags and stickers intended for the purpose of manufacture of export goods has been increased from Rs. 1000 to 10,000/-.

(vi) participation in fairs, exhibitions, organising Buyer-Seller Meets.

(vii) Garment exporters can import raw materials required by them duty free under value based Advance Licence Scheme.

मध्य प्रदेश में राष्ट्रीय वस्त्र निगम के अधीन रुग्ण मिलें

*175. **श्रीमती रत्न कुमारी** : क्या वस्त्र मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि :

(क) इस समय मध्य प्रदेश में राष्ट्रीय वस्त्र निगम के अधीन रुग्ण वस्त्र मिलों की संख्या कितनी है और ऐसी मिलों में कुल कितनी पूंजी लगी हुई है तथा उनमें कितने कर्मकार कार्यरत हैं ;

(ख) अब तक कितनी रुग्ण वस्त्र मिलों को बंद किया जा चुका है ; और

(ग) सरकार रुग्ण मिलों/बंद की गई मिलों को पुनः चालू करने के लिए क्या-क्या कदम उठा रही है ?

वस्त्र मंत्रालय के राज्य मंत्री (श्री अशोक गहलोत) : (क) एन टी सी (म० प्र०) के अधीन सात मिलों ने पिछले वर्षों के दौरान घाटा उठाया है तथा उन्हें रुग्ण मिलों के रूप में वर्गीकृत किया जा सकता है । 31-3-1992 की स्थिति अनुसार इन मिलों को इक्विटी के रूप में 3357 करोड़ रु० तथा ऋण के रूप में 181.86 करोड़ रु० की राशि प्रदान की गई है । 31-3-92 की स्थिति अनुसार इन मिलों में कामगारों की संख्या 15,835 थी ।

(ख) एन टी सी (म० प्र०) के अधीन कोई भी वस्त्र मिल बन्द नहीं पड़ी है ।

(ग) प्रश्न नहीं उठता ।

Development of Medium Battle Tank

*176. SHRI SUNDER SINGH BHANDARI:

SHRI TRILOKI NATH CHATURVEDI:

Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) what is the present status of the development of Medium Battle Tank;

(b) by when the same will become operational;

(c) what was its original estimated cost and what is the projected cost on becoming operational; and

(d) what have been the specific reasons for the delay in the development of this tank?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI SHARAD PAWAR): (a) 12 Prototypes including 2 fully integrated